



U.S. ARMY BANDS

SCREENING and

REFERENCE GUIDE

for

U.S. Army Recruiters

7 APRIL 2000

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INTRODUCTION TO RECRUITING ARMY BAND PERSONNEL

This fact sheet will provide needed information to the local Army Recruiter regarding:

- General information on the Army Band Field
- Addresses and phone numbers for the Brigade Band Liaison
- The quickest and most cost effective way to process applicants into the Band Field
- Assets at your disposal for band recruiting
- Frequently asked question about enlisting and serving as an Army musician

The face of the Army Band Program is changing dramatically. The days of most high school band members successfully handling the musical requirements of the modern Army Band Program are over. This does not mean that we no longer accept high school band applicants, only that we have discovered that older, more educated applicants perform their jobs more effectively and with fewer problems than do high school age applicants. If an applicant enters the Army Bands Program with only a high school diploma, they are already behind. The average education level of a U.S. Army Bands-person is 15.5 years. With the force of the Army becoming smaller and smaller, we can choose to be more selective in our recruiting efforts. Overall, the more educated the applicants, the smoother the functioning of the unit.

The Army Band Program and HQ USAREC has established a liaison in each recruiting brigade. There is also a Band Liaison at HQ USAREC. The addresses and numbers of each liaison are included in this pamphlet. These Band Liaisons are available to give presentations at colleges, universities and high schools throughout the brigade area. These liaisons have been hand picked from the band program, trained at the Armed Forces School of Music, and are also audition qualified, meaning they can give “on the spot” auditions, thus eliminating wasting time on transportation to and from a local Army Band. The liaisons are subject matter experts and should be used to brief you personally. They are in constant contact with HQ USAREC Band Liaison and are aware of policy, plans and the needs of not only CMF97 but also PERSCOM, EPMD and HQ USAREC.

The purpose of this packet is to explain the process and procedure for recruiting musicians into the U.S. Army. Every recruiting station has been provided with this packet as a way to eliminate applicants that could not possibly pass a band audition. This packet also gives the recruiter a way to understand the band program and eliminate any confusion they might have. In addition, much of the information given here is also on the USAREC website, located under Army Band. You can also access it directly on the World Wide Web at: **www.goarmy.com/band/welcome.htm**

Army Band Recruiting Liaisons - 2000

NAME/TITLE/EMAIL	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX
SFC BRYAN SIMPSON HQ USAREC Band Liaison SimpsonBryanESFC@usarec.army.mil	HQ USAREC RO-SM-B FT. KNOX, KY 40121 DSN: 536-0485	1-800-223-3735 ext. 6-0485 or 502-626-0485	502-626-0944
SSG KEVIN BRAND 1st Recruiting Bde Band Liaison 1bde-band-rctr@usarec.army.mil	1ST RECRUITING BDE CHAMBERLIN AVE BLDG 618 FT. MEADE, MD 20755	301-677-3928	410-674-5841
SSG RANDY LAUSCHER 2nd Recruiting Bde Band Liaison 2bde-ops-band@usarec.army.mil	2ND RECRUITING BDE 1295 HOOD AVE. FOREST PARK, GA 30297	1-800-763-1620 (pager) 404-363-5730 (office)	404-361-5638
SSG KENNY HALL 3rd Recruiting Bde Band Liaison 3bde-band@usarec.army.mil	3RD RECRUITING BDE BLDG 6580 FORT KNOX, KY 40121 DSN: 536-0228	1-800-223-3735 ext. 60228 or 502-626-0228	502-626-0986
SSG MARK HAYS 5th Recruiting Bde Band Liaison 5bde-band@usarec.army.mil	5TH RECRUITING BDE PO BOX 8277 WAINWRIGHT STATION SAN ANTONIO, TX 78208-0277	210-295-8738	210-225-6647
SSG ROB COMER 6th Recruiting Bde Band Liaison 6bde-band@usarec.army.mil	6TH RECRUITING BDE 4539 N. 5 TH ST. N. LAS VEGAS, NV 89031	702-639-2049	702-639-2039

Definition of Terms

When an applicant enters the recruiting office you must first ask which instrument they play. When you have that information, look for the sheet which pertains to the particular instrument:

- Percussion Instruments pertains to any form of drums, or any instruments that can be struck
- Rhythm Section Instruments pertains to Guitar, Electric Bass and Piano
- Wind Instruments refers to any instruments that requires air or breath to produce sound

Here is a list of CMF 97 MOS's:

MOS	INSTRUMENT
02B	TRUMPET
02C	EUPHONIUM
02D	HORN IN F
02E	TROMBONE
02F	TUBA
02G	FLUTE
02H	OBOE
02J	CLARINET
02K	BASSOON
02L	SAXOPHONE
02M	PERCUSSION
02N	KEYBOARD
02T	GUITAR
02U	ELECTRIC BASS

Your Brigade Band Liaison will have current information on which of the MOS's are still open for the year. Be sure to check with your liaison!

They have the best, most current information regarding Band mission.

Current information on openings can also be found at the USAREC band web page at: www.goarmy.com/band/current.htm

Screening questions for prospective band recruits

These questions are not a band audition! They will allow you to see if the prospective recruit has a possibility of qualifying for the band program. A single "no" or incorrect answer does not mean the recruit is not qualified, but two or more "no" or incorrect answers indicates that he/she may not be qualified. Check with a Band Liaison if you have questions. Don't coach or discuss answers with recruits.

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

(Drums)

Screening Questionnaire for U.S. Army Recruiters

1. Has the applicant pursued or is the applicant pursuing an Undergraduate Degree? ☐ yes ☐ no

2. Name the flats in the key of A flat Major
Answer: B flat, E flat, A flat, D flat

3. What is the relative minor of C major?
Answer: A minor

4. Moving up in whole steps, what is the note after E?
Answer: F sharp

5. Can the applicant play the first 13 rudiments?
☐ yes ☐ no

6. Can the applicant play mallets and timpani?
☐ yes ☐ no

7. Can the applicant play drum set? (This is very important! A “no” answer is not good.)

☐yes ☐no

RHYTHM INSTRUMENTS

(Keyboards, Electric Bass, Guitar)

Screening Questionnaire for U.S. Army Recruiters

1. Has the applicant pursued or is the applicant pursuing an Undergraduate Degree? ☐ yes ☐no

2. Name the flats in the key of A flat Major

Answer: B flat, E flat, A flat, D flat

3. Name the notes in a C diminished chord

Answer: C, E flat, G flat (or F sharp), A (or B double flat)

4. What is the relative minor of C major?

Answer: A minor

5. Moving up in whole steps, what is the note after E?

Answer: F sharp

6. Can the applicant play all their major scales?

☐yes ☐no

7. Can the applicant play all their minor scales?

☐yes ☐no

8. Can the applicant read chord changes?

☐yes ☐no (important)

WIND INSTRUMENTS

Screening Questionnaire for U.S. Army Recruiters

1. Has the applicant pursued or is the applicant pursuing an Undergraduate Degree? ☐ yes ☐ no

2. Name the flats in the key of A flat Major
Answer: B flat, E flat, A flat, D flat

3. What is the relative minor of C major?
(Answer: A minor)

4. Moving up in whole steps, what is the note after E?
(Answer: F sharp)

5. Can the applicant play all their major scales?
☐ yes ☐ no

7. Can the applicant play all their minor scales?
☐ yes ☐ no

02S SPECIAL BANDS
42C COMMISSIONED BAND OFFICER
420C WARRANT OFFICER
BANDMASTER

- 02S is a special bandsman. The applicant must submit a tape and a resume to the special band of choice, i.e. Pershing's own, The U.S. Army Field Band or West Point. The applicant must then be invited to audition in person. The special bands will send the applicant a written letter of invitation. You must use ITO funds for transportation. The applicant *must* present you with this letter.
- Vocal and String* MOS's exist only in the 02S special bands. There are no vocal MOS's in the rest of the band program.
(* strings include violin, viola, cello, harp, and classical string bass)
- 42C Commissioned Band Officers
Commissioned Band Officer applicants must have an undergraduate degree in applied music and must submit a video tape of their conducting skills to:

DA Staff Bands Officer
PERSCOM (ATTN:TAPC-PDO)
200 Stovall St.
Alexandria VA 22332

- 420C Warrant Officer Band Master
Warrant Officer Band Masters are selected from within the ranks of the band program. There are no off the street selections.

The following are a collection of materials dealing with how to go about finding quality band recruits, advantages of the program, and frequently asked questions about Army bands. Hopefully this material will assist you in recruiting Army musicians!

Finding a Qualified Musician: Finding a qualified musician for the Army Band Program has special challenges. Here are a few recommendations that may help you, the recruiter.

1. Stay in close contact with high school and college band directors in your area. Also keep in mind that band directors can join the Army Bands Program, provided they meet age and weight requirements. Band directors that have bachelor's or master's degrees in music would qualify for accelerated promotion.
2. Contact local community band and orchestra directors for possible recruits.
3. Contact the local musicians union.
4. Attend local high school, college, All-State, and band festivals.
5. Place newspaper ads, especially if a liaison or other audition-qualified personnel are in the area.
6. Give performing musicians your card when attending private as well as public social functions.
7. Be aware of when Army Bands are performing in your area. The Band Liaison in your brigade will provide you with a schedule of when the special bands are in your area. Bring prospective recruits to these concerts. The members of the band will be glad to talk to prospective recruits before or after the concert!

The Army is only accepting top-notch musicians at this time. Only the best high school players will be able to pass the audition. The caliber of musician the Army is seeking tends to be approaching the college-level ability musician. If you can attract recruits at

the college level, your chances of getting the applicants to pass the audition improve dramatically. This will save you and the liaison time and money!

Every college has graduating music majors that have no idea what they are going to do after graduation. There may be no civilian auditions available, and the band directors jobs are all full. Many Army band members are college graduates, and quite a few were former school band directors looking to play more, and teach less. Your chances of getting a college educated musician to pass the qualifying audition are very good!

Advantages of the Army Band Program: Here are some points you may want to mention to promote an interest in the Army Band Program.

1. Acceptance into the Army Band Program is considered a civilian acquired skill with pay grade beginning at E-3, and promotion to E-4 upon completion of Advanced Individual Training.
2. College graduates may enlist at pay grade E-4.
3. It is a steady, secure job playing music, which is difficult to find in civilian life.
4. You are under no obligation to enlist when taking the audition.
5. You can get paid for doing what you love to do.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Army Band Program:

Who can join an Army Band? Any musician, male or female, who is otherwise qualified to enlist in the Army, and can pass a pre-arranged audition by an authorized auditioner, can join an Army Band. An Army recruiter will arrange the audition by contacting the Brigade Band Liaison or the nearest active Army Band.

How well do I have to play? The main interest is in your sight-reading ability and demonstrated musicianship, i.e. tone, technique, rhythm, and intonation. Perfection is not expected, but honest effort is. If you pass the audition, the Army will assist you in learning and growing as a musician.

Where may I audition? Army Band auditions can be given at a local Army post, high school, recruiting station, or other suitable location. This will be worked out with the auditioner, recruiter, and you. Your recruiter will arrange for the transportation to and from the audition.

What rank will I be? Those who pass the audition may enlist at the advanced pay grade of E-3. If you have completed a four year degree, you may enlist as an E-4.

What about advancement in rank? Upon graduation from the School of Music, you will be promoted to the pay grade of E-4, if you are not already there. After that, you will advance in rank based on your merits.

Why are Army musicians enlisted at these advanced grades? To become an Army musician, you must be able to play an instrument proficiently. The Army considers this a Civilian Acquired Skill. This means that prior to enlistment, you had many years of training and practice to learn this skill. Your civilian musical training enables you to enlist at these advanced grades.

What other benefits will I receive? Service members are entitled to free medical and dental care, thirty days paid vacation per year, food allowance, housing allowance, life insurance at low rates, and exchange and commissary privileges.

What is a typical work day like? Typically, bands rehearse from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., break for lunch, then rehearse from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. These rehearsals may be of any type from full concert band to small groups to sectional, depending on what needs to be accomplished. Before and after rehearsals, part of the day is spent on training and administrative duties.

How many days a week does an Army Band work? Most Army Bands work Monday through Friday. When commitments involve working on the weekend, the band members are normally given another day of the week off to compensate.

What happens if I fail the audition? If you fail the audition, you will be told what your weaknesses are, and how you can correct them. You'll also be informed that you can return at a later date to re-audition.

Can I choose my assignment? If you desire, you may choose an assignment to any of the Army Bands worldwide, if an opening is available for your instrument at that location.

Do I have to attend Basic Training? Yes, all Army musicians, even those going to the special bands, are required to attend Basic Training.

Do I have to attend the School of Music (Advanced Individual Training)? Yes, unless you are going to one of the premier bands (The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own), The United States Army Field Band, or The United States Military Academy Band), you will attend the U.S. Army Element School of Music in Norfolk, VA. The course is six months long, but if you meet graduation standards, you may graduate early.

Processing Band Applicants: Processing band applicants at the MEPS station requires a call to the DA PERSCOM Band Liaisons to verify the control number on the SOM Form 1230/2A or 1230/2B (audition report.) This is per AR 601-210, Table 7-1, paragraph 5c (1), page 90. It is difficult at times to get through to this office. As band MOS's close during the recruiting year, slots must be moved or converted to allow reservations to be pulled. The personnel at PERSCOM need advance notice to make these moves and conversions. Prior coordination with the Brigade Band Liaison will help prevent arriving at the MEPS only to find that all band slots are over 365 days out, the MOS is filled for the year, the slot is the last one and is the wrong gender, or some other reason the reservation cannot be pulled. Also, these people are not on duty on Saturdays, so some prior planning and coordination is definitely needed to process these applicants on a processing Saturday.

Another problem that has occurred in the past is late calls to USAREC or PERSCOM. We cannot coordinate changes if we get calls too late in the day. This is a cause for concern especially for the later time zones, i.e. calling at 1300 or later their time. If we get a call at 1600 our time, it leaves us little time to get the changes made to pull a reservation. Please call by 1300 EST to give us maximum chance to help you. If you floor a band applicant without contacting your brigade liaison or the HQ USAREC liaison, you may have no problem at all getting a reservation pulled, but don't chance it. This wastes your time, gives the applicants a bad impression of the Army, and causes frustration at all levels of USAREC. In most cases we can get something done to help you, but you have to give us a chance!

Comments and Feedback:

I hope this paper has been helpful in answering questions you and your recruits have about the Army Band Program. Comments and suggestions concerning this document are welcome, and should be directed to:

SFC Bryan Simpson
HQ USAREC Band Liaison

Address: HQ USAREC (RO-SM-B)
Ft. Knox, KY 40121

Phone: (502) 626-0485 or 1-800-223-3735 ext. 6-0485

DSN: 536-0485

Email: SimpsonBryanESFC@usarec.army.mil

URL: <http://www.goarmy.com/band/welcome>